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Afghanistan Conundrum: Role of International Humanitarian Organizations for Regional Security and Repercussions for Pakistan

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Abstract

Afghanistan has been at a focal point for great powers especially United States after cold war era due to its strategic location. It has been unfortunate for Afghanistan that the country has been a constant victim of proxy wars after 9/11 till date. Pakistan, being Afghanistan's neighboring country is having a direct demeanor when it comes to security matrix concern which requires Pakistan to play its role in such precarious situation by not only mediating but by highlighting the failed role of international humanitarian organizations for ensuring regional security of South Asia and particularly of these countries. The international humanitarian laws which were made to protect the lives of human beings all over the world, has fathomed to be failed. The paper has implemented the theory of Barry Buzan and Ole Weaver's framework of "regional security complex", since all the states are interdependent, then the regional security over the anarchic international system has become far from uniform. In the end, the role of Pakistan will be critically analyze that whether Pakistan has been successful or not when it comes to playing the role of a mediator or helping in derailing down the extremism factor in Afghanistan in context of political, social and economic instability. This paper has addressed the research questions that how foreign invasion can create regional security threats not only to the targeted country but whole region is directly affected with it. The research is qualitative and descriptive in which effects of independent variables of foreign policy of Pakistan as a mediator, role of humanitarian organization under United Nation and intervention of United States has been studied on the dependent variable of stability in Afghanistan.

Key Words: Afghanistan, Conundrum, International, Humanitarian, Organizations

Introduction

Afghanistan has been elevated to the mirage of conflict when it comes to implementation of effective foreign policy and humanitarian international laws. It all started in response to the terrorist attacks of 9/11, when US led military forces intervened in Afghanistan against Al Qaeda and Taliban government which was alleged to harbor terrorist attacks throughout the world. Within these 18 years, US suffered 2,400 military deaths, and due to constant stalemate situation, US wanted to make efforts for curtailing down the extreme forces of conflict through mutually agreed plebiscite, with the help of Pakistan to act as a mediator. However, on September 7, 2019, President of United States Donald Trump called off the talks which were supposed to happen with Taliban leaders. Such decisions eventually leads to vagueness about the circumstances under which US wants to announce the resumption of dialogue. According to the observer report of October 2019, US withdrew 5000 of its 1400 troops from Afghanistan within 135 days, but they have also mentioned their concern that the full-scale withdrawal of US forces may lead to the collapse of Afghan government may eventually give more power to Taliban groups and the debates have been going on among observers of United Nations about the political arrangements that could satisfy both the Kabul and Taliban political groups to the extent that could abandon the struggle of conflict and could bring peace in the region.

Afghanistan's three hundred years' history narrates the tale of tumultuous political journey. The significance of its location kept it at the center stage of global politics which enhanced when the Great Britain colonized Indian sub-continent. Since, there had been very strong political, cultural, racial and economic and ties among the people of Afghanistan, Iran and India for last five to six hundred years, in particular, the implications of any political and or strategic upheaval also travelled eastwards into India. Afghanistan's geopolitical position made it the focal point of the classical Great Game between Russia and the Great Britain; the rivalry over the former's expansionist motives eastwards and counter-strategies of the latter to halt its advance towards India. This scenario transformed into the succeeding rivalry between Soviet Union and the United States of America. Though the landmass of Afghanistan proved to be the 'graveyard of Great Empires', containing bright chances of super powers to militarily win any war directly here. But certainly, it could not evade the social, political and economic shockwaves of protracted conflicts.

However, with the appointment of President Joe Biden who declared the retreat of US forces from Afghanistan on August 30, 2021, left the vacuum which again has led to the new great game as Taliban have again started to regain their power. This paper has addressed the dynamics of the involvement of Pakistan being an important neighboring country of Afghanistan and has played a vital role in enabling possible aid to this conflict. As Thomas (2019), founded that initially, President Trump accused Pakistan for providing safe havens to the terrorists. Pakistan has itself been fighting with the terrorist forces of Islamic militants within country, and the reason for detrimental Pak-Afghan relation started with the presence of over a million Afghan refugees and due to ethnically-tinged dispute over a shared border of 1600 mile. Not only this, Pakistan has been encircled with the fear of security establishment by India as it has started to build its diplomatic relation with Afghanistan with its commercial presence in the region by giving it reconstruction aids at an immense level.

United States has been unsuccessful in controlling the rising insurgency level in Afghanistan, whereas on the other hand, Pakistan has been unable to establish a

urable national cohesion to maintain a strong defense establishment. It should be noted here that without the army's support to the current diplomatic power, effective security measures could not be achieved. Hence, this power balance is necessary in order to resolve the security dilemma issues quickly. With the fear of failed United Nation's efforts for bringing peace in Afghanistan, and with the coalition losing to build dialogue platform with Taliban forces, the next target will be Pakistan. Hence, a joint effort by Pakistan military and democratic government will be needed more than ever to overcome the threat of terror and militancy at its borders of both east (India) and west (Afghanistan). The paper has addressed the realism-based strategies followed by United States in Afghanistan which revolved around the concept of "self-interest".

According to Hans Morgenthau: "national interest is defined in terms of the survival, security, and power, and that the rational policy minimizes risks and maximizes benefits." In this period of time, there were only two sides of the same coin i.e., risk and benefit, however, today, with the inclusion of international humanitarian organization, collective benefit needs to be the main aim of any sovereign country. In this paper, the unsuccessful role of United Nation has been analyzed with the failed strategic policies based on constant self-interest by the U.S. which has endangered the regional stability. The paper has also implemented the theory of "regional complex security" of Barry Buzan and Ole Weaver according to which the security of states is so much intertwined that it cannot be addressed separately, rather it is always explained in relation to other states and anarchical institution like UN. This paper has focused on analyzing the relationship of stability of Afghanistan which is dependent on the independent variables of International humanitarian laws, intervention of United States and foreign policy of Pakistan for bringing stability in the region. As Carney (2020), founded that in February 2020's agreement between US and Taliban for ending the two decades Afghan war, factor of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) was missing; hence, this paper has evaluated how inclusion of this main factor could have spared the citizens of Afghan from annihilation. In the end, recommendations have been made when it comes to Pakistan's foreign policy with Afghanistan which emphasize on dealing with mistrust issues first, which can lead to the solving of range of problems from migration flows to the division of water resources, and can eventually lead to the mutual benefit of both countries and regional stability can be achieved in this manner. Also, there is not much scope for any vacuum or loop-holes to be left by the international humanitarian agency of United Nations, as the conflict of U.S-Afghan has cost many lives, resources and time framework of 18 years which have been exhausted in utter loss of not only these two states but for Pakistan as well being a mediator in between the two.

Significance of the study

The significance of the study is to analyze the factors which have been contributing in escalating the ongoing conflict that has taken a shape of civil war as well within Afghanistan due to intervention of United States since 2001 after 9/11 in the name of War on Terror. The paper has focused on the failed military strategies based on realism by United States which has endangered the stability of whole South Asia Region including the country of Pakistan which is facing security dilemma on its both east (India's territorial conflict and its rising diplomatic relation with Afghanistan) and west (Afghanistan with its immense influx of refugees in Pakistan, border dispute, rise of Islamic militant terrorism) borders. Hence, this paper has addressed this increased critical situation and highlighted the futile efforts of United Nations as well, as it has failed to address the international humanitarian rights when it comes to insuring peace and regional

stability. Hence, because of the constant failed efforts made by UN, and in absence of International Humanitarian Laws, Pakistan had to play the role of mediator as asked by the United States to give it a favor in withdrawing its armed forces through a peaceful dialogue between U.S. and Taliban groups and ensuring a mutually agreed plebiscite agreement for stable government in Afghanistan and to stop further human casualties.

Objectives of the study

The main objectives of this study is to examine the unsuccessful role of the United Nations for failed strategic policies particularly based on theory of “self-interest” that has endangered the stability of the region. The paper aims to establish the relationship between the stability in the Afghanistan with the inclusion of the role of Pakistan’s foreign policy towards de-escalating the conflict. There is a need to analyze the role of international developmental agencies for reshaping the humanitarian responsibilities in Afghanistan in order to ensure peace in the region filled with numerous untapped natural resources including minerals, hydrocarbons, which makes the region an important hub for superpower countries, however, the paper has examined the facts that how this interference can create a “cross-border” threats and security dilemma in the region. The main objective of this paper is to address the complex unstable situation of war torn country of Afghanistan, and to analyze the role of international humanitarian organization in context of regional security.

Literature Review

The conflict in Afghanistan as Jamal (2019) illustrated cannot be separated from its regional perspective. It is related to the developments within Pakistan, India, Iran and Central Asian states as well as the rest of the world is connected through the religious spectrum which connects the Muslim population. Hence, a constant deepening crisis situation within Afghanistan is associated with the complexity of militancy and security dilemma of Pakistan being its neighboring country. It has become essential for Pakistan to address the peace, stability and economic development within its country by generating a stronger civil-military relation.

A new level of uncertainty has been emerged in Afghanistan as glorified by Sakhi (2021), mainly with the withdrawal of U.S as there was no concrete plan for countering terrorism acts. Also, with one-third of the country controlled by Taliban forces, the other militant groups have been formulated such as Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) in the eastern region of Afghanistan which has resulted into the new wave of Afghani migration towards neighboring countries. This derailing situation has further created insecurity in the region and increase in the proxy wars.

The study of Herman (2019), advocates that under the classic International Relations theory, the interest of states are based on the principle of achieving national interest. Hence, Hans Morgenthau proposed the theory of national interest but based on the principles of realism i.e., through rational policies for achieving maximum benefits and minimizing the risks. However, according to the author, it was an era of only calculating risk and benefits in order for a state to achieve its national interest at any cost, but today, it is a globalized world, where benefits of one country is associated with another, and states have to work on the principle of Neo Liberalism for collective benefits. In the case of U.S-Afghan war, the international humanitarian laws have failed to address this issue which has damaged the stability of the region and has endangered the security of neighboring countries as well especially Pakistan who has been acting as a mediator and facilitator since 2001.

Carney (2020), offers a theory of concept of self-defense under the Article 51 of UN charter as US was not under the specific mandate of UN and has wrongly used this mandate for justification, but questions started to rise after 9/11. Enquiries about the particular focus of US in Afghanistan for manipulating power started to rise over the implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) because of constant torture to prisoners, the establishment of detainment camps for Afghan prisoners without trial at Guantanamo Bay and then their transfer to the other allied countries that practices torture, and the execution of the military operations with little or no concern for the development of war torn civilians. Hence, the constant silence of Security Council for implementing IHL in Afghanistan has indicated the violation of “Jus in Bello” which has been most notable factor in two decades of war since 9/11.

The work expounded by Nadim (2017), lays a powerful and persistent constructive approaches for explaining a simultaneous deterioration of the stability in both Afghanistan and security concern for Pakistan presents the most alarming situation that can open up the possibility for India to intervene and achieve its territorial agenda. Hence, today a military stalemate can be seen in Afghanistan and NATO forces, this can lead to a high security risk for Pakistan due to miscalculated strategies for bringing peace and stability in the region. This has led to the exacerbated danger for Pakistan on its eastern border, and with the escalated intervention of Indian forces in Kashmir as well. Hence, a deterioration in Afghanistan is parallel to the deterioration of Pakistan with the inclusion of danger from state of India for possible intervention.

Thomas (2019), has wittily proposed in his research that there can be a possibility that United States can abandon Pakistan altogether in future, and may ask for help from India for mediation in Afghanistan, that is why India has already started working on establishing amicable relations with Afghanistan through offering immense level of reconstruction financial aids and with offering of other constructive projects. Due to this reason, Pakistan cannot take any risk with its profound relations with United States as it will be beneficial for both the countries.

Analyzing the impact of United Nations in the third world countries, Zakaria (2019), has deeply illuminated the facts and historical evidences of Afghanistan by highlighting various human rights sanctions under United Nations such as Resolution 1267, and 1333 which have led to the more violation and regressive reaction from the Taliban in following these international orders. They found their safe haven in getting all the necessary facilities of financial aids, oil resources, and arms from third state actors including insurgents, and countries which keeps on waiting for an agenda to intervene like Russia and India which proved to be the essential facilitator to Taliban. The international community has failed to hold the Afghanistan’s warring factions accountable for violating international humanitarian laws and human rights. Such impositions over Taliban have not proved to be effective because these do not address the larger issues which can prove to be beneficial for grave situation of civilians of Afghanistan. International human rights watch should focus on ending abuses at societal level and for ending the constant conflict between the fighting parties.

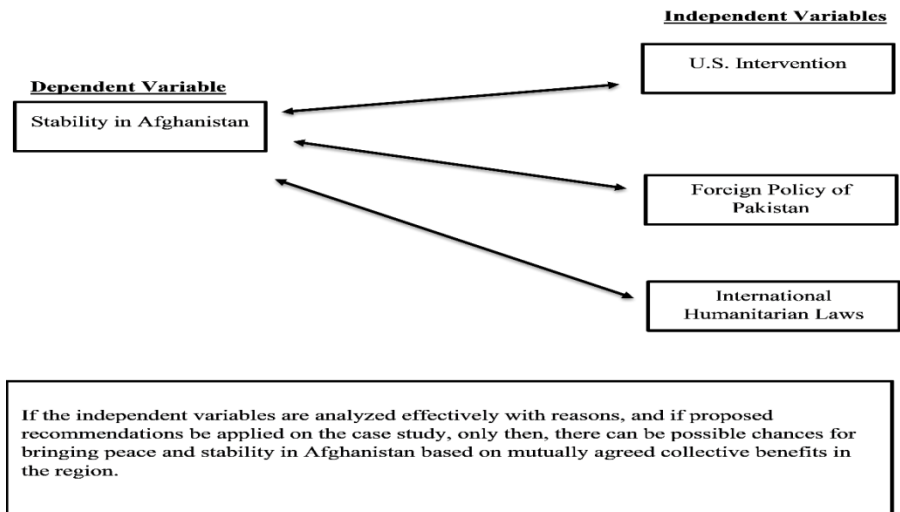
Methodology and Theoretical Framework

The paper has adopted a qualitative and descriptive method. Secondary data has been generated from the reliable sources like online journal articles, and books, in order to develop an effective literature review for this paper. The methodology in any kind of research is necessary as it is the process which requires the gathering of dispersed data to coherent in whole. For the secondary resources, the data has

been collected from the published journal articles, and books of foreign governments, international bodies and their subsidiary agencies, along with various research reports from scholars, theses, newspapers, libraries of universities and statistical data from historical documents.

Barry Buzan and Ole Weaver develop the framework of regional security studies on the notion that “security dynamics are inherently relational, no nation’s security is self-contained”. Regional Security Complex Theory was mainly conceived in the third world security dynamics’ context and related mostly to Europe. Buzan & Weaver (2004), present a theoretical generalization expunging it of euro centric approach and focus on regional generalization which can be specified to the regional strategic environments. “Security Complexes are regions as seen through the lens of security”. The causal relationship of various variables opens up for examination only if seen through security lens.

Regional security complex is an analytical concept for the comprehension of the regional dynamics of security. The relationship of amity and enmity in a region designs the broad security structure of that respective region. The balance of power struggle and impact of international anarchical structure determines the strategic environment. A state is more vulnerable to the



Taliban Regime: Interim Government’s Challenges

Taliban’s rise to power with taking control of Kabul on August 15th, 2021 sweeping through almost 80% of Afghan territory established its immediate military victory and unexpected defeat and sudden fall of Afghan forces. However, it opened a gamut of questions on Taliban regime’s sustainability. Afghan security forces fell without showing any resistance despite the fact that the US spent huge amount in raising and training this force. This fall showed various fault lines of Afghanistan’s weak governing structure standing on the pillars of the US support. Afghan forces did not represent a national security structure rather the troops were from varied ethnicities in a terribly ethnically divided Afghan society mired by extensive corruption in Afghan government. The major financial assistance was earlier coming from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund which was also frozen after Taliban’s takeover. The US and European Union have frozen Afghanistan’s financial assets of about USD 9.5 billion (Mohsin, 2021).

Role and Stakes of Regional Powers: China, Iran, Pakistan and Russia

After Taliban took over Kabul, embassies of four countries continued functioning in Afghanistan which are; China, Iran, Pakistan and Russia (Salahuddin, 2021). These four states have imminent interests in Afghanistan along with huge potential of challenges they could face. The regional security is deeply embedded in Afghanistan which impacts these nations at a significant magnitude. China's main interest is regional stability in this region for smooth continuation of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which is the linchpin of BRI. It also is concerned about the penetration of terrorism into western China through East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) in case they get support in unstable Afghanistan. Taliban require extensive economic support and they seem to rely on trade heavily. They have shown their intent to join CPEC and BRI already but their joining the projects requires their strong executive position inside Afghanistan enabling them to guarantee comparatively smooth and secure environment for investments. Iran's has shown support for Taliban publically in past and continues its ties with Taliban but it seems to be more watching the situation. Certainly Iran's biggest concern was the US presence in its backyard. It unilaterally declared that the US withdrawal from Afghanistan was the victory of Afghan people. Pakistan also kept this position. Pakistan has a myriad of challenges and opportunities, threats and security issues related to its western border with Afghanistan. Pakistan also has an interest of trade through Afghanistan which reduced from USD 2 billion to USD 790 million during the US war here (Salahuddin, 2021). Pakistan intends to ease its pressure of refugees also which it has no further capacity to host. Despite the fencing of its western border Pakistan continues to face the threat of terrorism from across the border.

Why it is time to end the War in Afghanistan for US? Overcoming Inertia

The war in Afghanistan has become the longest war of 18 years, mainly because of inertia. Policy makers have gone diverted to ignore the reality of Neo-Liberalism, and focused more on the self-interest agenda which has speculated a vague, unrealistic objectives with an unclear approach for attaining goals and ending conflict in a peaceful manner. Today, United States is faced a huge financial loss of \$975 billion dollars till date. Moreover, policy makers have also succumbed to address the cost fallacy, and stated that the costs borne has not went into vain. Even today, under Trump's regime, many strategies are of the view that withdrawing the US forces may not be an appropriate decision as it may make the Taliban group stronger than ever.

In the previous U.S. history for intervention in various countries, whenever the strategic rationale had gone in a stalemate, or when the costs expected exceeded the expected benefits, the United States has always withdrew its forces from the active hostile region; for example, as it did in Somalia in 1993, Lebanon in 1983, Vietnam war which went in for far too long and it withdrew its forces in 1973. If the situation in Afghanistan is analyzed, US seems to think as it owns the war in Afghanistan. But here, this research paper needs to ponder the question that "why U.S. is still there, and why should it remain there?"

This research question can be addressed in an effective manner with the quotation of a strategist named Lord Salisbury; "Nothing is more fatal to a wise strategy than clinging to the carcasses of dead policies". As Magsmen et.al (2019) founded that due to bleak policies imposed under President Trump's government, despite of 18 years of war for trying to quell the Taliban insurgent groups and to build an independent Afghan government, police force or army, Afghanistan remains as one of the world's poorest and most dangerous countries of the world, with the

security forces and international humanitarian laws still not capable enough to protect the population from insurgents.

Failure in implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

According to the various human rights sanctions under United Nations such as Resolution 1267, and Resolution 1333 have led to the more violation and regressive reaction from the Taliban in following these international orders. Glaser (2019) has explained that Taliban forces found their safe haven in getting all the necessary facilities of financial aids, oil resources, and arms from third state actors including insurgents, and from the countries which keeps on waiting for an agenda to intervene like Russia and India which proved to be the essential facilitator to Taliban. The international humanitarian law (IHL) hence has failed to hold the Afghanistan's warring factions accountable for violating international humanitarian laws and human rights. Such impositions over Taliban have not proved to be effective because these do not address the larger issues which can prove to be beneficial for grave situation of civilians of Afghanistan. International human rights watch should focus on ending abuses at societal level and for ending the constant conflict between the fighting parties. Failure at the end of International Humanitarian laws is another spectrum of failure to reduce the conflicting situation in Afghanistan. Today, almost 2 million children in Afghanistan suffer from acute malnutrition, and 2019 has marked the first year since 18 years to start documenting the civilian casualties. Hence, ending the war through a negotiated settlement, offers a better safeguard against this ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan.

In the case of Afghanistan as Herman (2019) suggested that despite of persistent attempts by UN to insulate the country from the worst conflicting situation, but the negotiations between the fighting factions always remained limited which ended up in stalemating results. It should be noted here that due to complex and distorted political structure and instable government, there is no proper institutional framework left in the country. Henceforth, there is a need for a real reform measurements and international developmental agencies need to reshape their humanitarian responsibilities when it comes to improvising commanding structure for inculcating peace and for ending the conflict from its roots. Due to the lack of proper institutionalization in Afghanistan, the funding programs therefore have failed to solve the problem.

Recently, in February 29, 2020, when agreement happened between US and Taliban for ending the two decade Afghan war, it was found out that there is no inclusion of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the agreement and it was not even part of the discussion as well. It was found out according to the analysts, that if IHL was incorporated in the agreement, this could have spared the lives of citizens of Afghanistan from terror and annihilation, even if this fighting is unable to cease in future. This deal did not prove to be a guarantee for a cease-fire but US agreed to reduce its troops from 12,000 to 8,600 and also committed to completely withdraw its forces if Taliban would keep its commitments. But later in March 4, 2020, Taliban attacked US forces, as a result of which US also responded with military strikes. This proves that there was no specification of IHL in the agreement at all, otherwise it would have been a groundbreaker in violation of a formal agreement. IHL is mainly governed by the international Conventions specifically Geneva Convention and there are four main parts of the Conventions which needs to be agreed by the member states including two other additional protocols. US has agreed the four protocols but not the additional ones. Additionally, according to Carney (2020), it is essential that a member needs to be a State in order to be a member of this Convention, and Taliban is not an official state nor it is a recognized organization. If this agreement could have just

identified that “all warfare incidents between US and Taliban forces will be administered by Geneva Convention. Convention IV, Article 15 and Convention III, Article 13 of Geneva Convention states that the agreed parties need to establish the “Neutralized zones” which have to protect the civilians and even wounded combatants rather put them in the detained camps which US is currently doing. It also includes the clause for humane treatment with prisoners and to avoid any physical torture or act of violence with them. However, US did not abide by these Conventions, as it has been accused of torture with prisoners this much that ICC (International Criminal Court) held hearings over this matter in December, 2019.

Another issue which has been raised is that when a state violates IHL, there are various ways to enact the international obligations. In result of violation of IHL, sanctions can be imposed just like it happened against Syria as Syria violated IHL using chemical weapons. In case of US Afghan War, Taliban is not a state, and sanctions cannot be imposed on them, but US could offer them financial assistance which may pull off Taliban from violating IHL. But it has been seen that US would never want to give money to terrorist group. Hence, for the potential development for IHL to be implied in Afghanistan, it is best to start with incremental agreements with Taliban rather giving priority to war tactics and there is a need to make them to agree on IHL agreements.

Another main reason for the failure of international humanitarian agencies in persistently conflicting situation in Afghanistan is due to the overlapping of United Nations with NGO's or other donor actors which may have distorted the institutional reforms in the country, as donor actors' political intentions may vary from the broader concept of peace and humanitarian international organizations. This critical nature of the problem needs to be highlighted during the dialogue and negotiating meetings with the Afghan government and other fighting factions by the United Nation. Also, in the end, if the international humanitarian organizations' intentions are to solve the conflicting situation in Afghanistan, there is a need for United Nations to address whether their mission is political or philanthropic in nature. According to Sharp et.al (2002), there is a need for such humanitarian organizations to implement long-lasting solutions for the war-distorted land and for the affected citizens of a country which is a victim of tenuous government and which is facing constant military intervention from United States since 2001 till date. There is a need for United Nations to realize that finding terrorists and then eliminating them may be an essential first step, but, in the long run, creating a peaceful sustained society that does not breed more terrorists in the future must be the solution and this can only happen if effective institutional measurements are to be taken by the international humanitarian agencies, which includes attacking on hunger, endemic diseases, malnutrition, poverty, fear of insecurity, and illiteracy which will ultimately improves the global security in the end.

Role of Pakistan's foreign policy and its regional security dilemma

United States and Pakistan both are seeking a way to end the 18 year war in Afghanistan. The U.S.-Pak relationship is consisted of cycles of engagements and disengagements in the history. However, today, it is the need of an hour for Pakistan to maintain its relations with U.S. in order to attain both diplomatic and military support to secure its eastern border from India. It should be noted here, that under the regime of Imran Khan, Pakistan has not compromised it's fully compliance with United States and has “denied to do more for U.S. and Haqqani network”, as it worries about a blowback that it can get from Taliban forces in the form of terrorism.

Karim (2019), revealed that when it comes to the security concern for Pakistan, according to the research and policy makers, after the withdrawal of the U.S. forces, there may be chances that Pakistan can have a set-back from United States and their relationship may deteriorate and Pakistan may likely to begin losing its leverage from U.S., however, at the same time, Pakistan has become successful in formulating its strong relationship with China as a strong back-up. As a result, any future disengagement of Pak-U.S. relation will not hurt Pakistan economically and militarily. Not only this, Pakistan's army is relatively less dependent of U.S. for arms and has been working with China and Russia to fulfill its security and military hardware needs.

Pakistan is having various important interests in Afghanistan. Firstly, stability of Afghanistan is important for Pakistan being neighboring countries and for regional integration purpose. Secondly, Pakistan is currently hosting 3 million registered and un-registered Afghan refugees since Soviet War and their return can only be made possible if there would be stability in Afghanistan. Thirdly, is that Pakistan is facing severe energy crisis and these energy crisis can be overcome by establishing strong trading relation with Central Asian States, for example in transporting oil and gas, but the only hurdle is that the pipelines passes through Afghanistan which has made it difficult to meet the energy scarcity resources in Pakistan.

It has been perceived by Pakistan's governmental regimes that the interests of the United States in Afghanistan were always been identical to its own. But today, Pakistan is not very satisfied with its influential role in combating war against terrorism as it did not receive the deserving appreciation by the International peace formulating organization of United Nations and Western Powers including United States of America. Also, Karim (2019), founded that Pakistan is now more wary about the danger of intervention by India in Afghanistan. Hence, because of the domestic insecurity dilemma, Pakistan can barely afford the Indian influence on its northwest border with Afghanistan. It has been suspected that India has already established number of consulates for conducting "detrimental acts" against Pakistan. These consulates focuses in fueling the anti-Pakistan sentiments especially in backward provinces of Baluchistan and FATA. The recent example is of RAW agent "Kulbhushan Sudhir Jadhav" who was found in Baluchistan working as a spy with a mission to conduct the acts of terrorism in Pakistan. Hence, it has become essential for Pakistan to establish security measures not only within its own soil but to help in achieving stability in its neighboring country of Afghanistan which directly proportional to the peaceful environment in Pakistan. There is no doubt as Jamal (2019), has explained that instability in Afghanistan is parallel to the security concern in Pakistan with an exceptional threat on eastern border from India, and with more than a million Afghan refugees, and there can always be a threat of insurgent terrorist attacks in the country. However, it should be noted here, that bilateral mistrust and frustration in U.S.-Pakistan relationship have never proved to be fruitful in attaining the goal of peace in Afghanistan. There is a need to have convergence of interests by removing the blame game from their relation and to work mutually for a collective interest to bring this war to end in Afghanistan.

Recommendations

The civil war in Afghanistan has become more of a geopolitical battleground for other states i.e., intervening country of United States, with the inclusion of countries which shares borders with Afghanistan such as Pakistan, Iran, and Central Asian states, and an exception of India which keeps on working to find ways to influence on the war's outcome especially in case of security concern for Pakistan. Country of Afghanistan has seen a massive humanitarian toll of almost

18 years of constant war with huge level of population displacement, famine, and economic downfall, and still, international peace formulating organization of United Nation has still not figured out any prominently effective measures to implement an international policy in Afghanistan. The insecurity in Afghanistan region creates main concerns among neighbors such as “threats of cross border militancy acts, or trafficking”, which can have an impact on the regional security dilemma. However, in the current scenario of the security vacuum, Russia seems to be playing an important role in region of Afghanistan with a Troika alongside with China and Pakistan. President Joe Biden has already indicated that they will remain associated with Afghanistan through security and development related projects, but with such diplomacy, the Taliban groups can be ignited again for extremist acts of terrorism. Hence, there is a need for Pakistan for making sure of constant critical support to be given to Afghan security forces. However, this support has to be targeted and focused for the “police forces” in order to keep the Taliban out of the cities. Also, there is a need to maintain existing US and UN sanctions on the Taliban leaders in the region especially the UN Security Council Resolution 1988 act for listing “linchpins” designation for Taliban who are profiting from trading of drugs.

Human rights watch has not played a significant role in the resolutions to be adopted by the United Nation’s Security Council over the conflict of Afghanistan. Also, under pressure from the U.S., the Security Council has been working over the agenda presented by it in order to put resistive measures on Taliban groups such as, to put various arms sanctions on them including Resolution 1267 and 1333, banning aircrafts, travelling abroad, banning to have oil resources, freezing their financial resources within the country and arms embargo on Taliban. This resolution resulted into failure as it made them to reach for the other facilitators including Russia, Iran or India for enabling them the needed arms and ammunition aids.

There is a need to ensure that International Humanitarian Laws (IHL) are imposed effectively in order to implement effective resolutions that can ensure to protect the people living under the control of Taliban. This will make the Taliban group who calls themselves “Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan”, weak as they would not have the support of civilians anymore. Hence, for the potential development for IHL to be implied in Afghanistan, it is best to start with incremental agreements with Taliban rather giving priority to war tactics and there is a need to make them to agree on IHL agreements.

There is a need of constant monitoring and evaluation for implementing the international humanitarian laws in Afghanistan. These initiatives need to be formulated without any influence from a powerful actor and should focus on the long-term goal of welfare of civilians who have become victim of armed conflict between Taliban and NATO forces.

There is no doubt that the international community and Pakistan being a mediator both are facing numerous challenges especially in legal dimension, but if the loss of civilians in terms of their welfare and security is considered both in Afghanistan and Pakistan, there is a need to establish sustainable policies and programs by United States and United Nations that can lead to the peaceful results of collective interests in the region. Also, by enhancing regional connectivity for bringing an improvement in Afghanistan’s brittle economy through multilateral trading agreements, there can be chances for filling out the void left in war torn country.

As far as Pakistan’s foreign policy is concerned for its security dilemma in the ongoing U.S.-Afghan war, there is a need for Pakistan to build strong alliance with

Russia and China in terms of economic, military, and social developments. According to the recent research, when U.S under President Trump administration denied to give military training to Pakistan, it started its coalition with Russia for the military training and arms exchange. Also, with the economic project like CPEC with China, Pakistan will not be worrying for an economic set back, after U.S. would withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Moreover, the embargo needs to be strictly monitored, and enforced and Security Council should take all the possible measures to inspect key border crossings and airfields of Afghanistan. This can become a successful policy if only Afghan civilians can have full access to humanitarian assistance. The Security Council should use the means that can be least restrictive on the civilian population in achieving its goals. In the end, a negotiated settlement, with a formal cease-fire act and a U.S. military forces withdrawal is the most reasonable and a promising way of overcoming this inertia and for avoiding the most undesirable outcomes above all.

Conclusion

The security crisis in Afghanistan has become a global concern which calls for expanded international efforts in order to stabilize the region. In order to initiate such efforts, it is necessary to understand the historical background of the conflicted region, history intervention of third state actors, and the present efforts which international humanitarian agency of United Nations have made so far for stability in the region. It will be impossible to address the issues of Afghanistan and its neighboring country Pakistan, without considering the factors that can endangered the peace of whole region through conflict and intervention across borders of these countries. There is a need to realize the importance of balance between military efforts and the “softer” non-military assistance, which can support the economic and humanitarian development in Afghanistan, as this strategy would not be limited to quick-fixes but it will have a long-lasting impact of stability in the region. Hence, there is a need to realize that without proper implementation of International humanitarian laws in the war-tormented region of Afghanistan, violence and two decade war may never end. In this process, it is essential to address the crucial security obstacles as well such as cultural misunderstandings, miscommunication between actors and organizations, bureaucratic inertia that can create a buffer and vacuum for intervention of third state actors including the state like India which seeks agenda to intervene over territorial issue. If the main aim of the intervening state of United States, sincere efforts of United Nations, effective foreign policies of a mediating country of Pakistan will be based on collective interests, only then the stability in Afghanistan could be able to achieve in a successful manner.

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